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July 19, 1901

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*Reports from Liverpool—Concerning the inspection of emigrants at Liverpool.*

LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND, June 26, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to make the usual weekly report for the week ended June 22, 1901. During that period I inspected 712 passengers. I advised the rejection of 6 persons for favus and 3 for trachoma.

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Respectfully,

JOHN F. ANDERSON,  
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND, July 2, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to make the usual report for the week ended June 29, 1901. During the week I inspected 690 passengers for Canadian ports. I advised the rejection of 5 persons for favus and 1 for trachoma. I inclose a copy of a letter from the consul at Liverpool to the consul-general at London, in reply to a question that was asked by the president of the board of trade for Great Britain for the information of Parliament. I thought, perhaps, it might be of interest.

Respectfully,

JOHN F. ANDERSON,  
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

*Inspection of emigrants at Liverpool.*

"LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND, June 24, 1901.

"SIR: I beg to reply to your letter of the 20th instant, inquiring whether Dr. Anderson (the United States Government medical officer stationed at this port) or I "exercise under any law, the right to refuse permission to any emigrant to sail to the United States, either first, second, or third class, and, if so, how many, and what restrictions are in force in this regard."

"I would first say that at the present time Dr. Anderson's duties relate exclusively to emigrants embarking on ships touching at Canadian ports, and this I will explain further on.

"Answering your inquiry in its strict letter I would say that I do not exercise any right to directly refuse permission to any emigrant, irrespective of class, to sail to the United States. It is, however, my duty to see that the various immigration and quarantine laws of the United States applicable to the port of embarkation are carried out. In this connection I would refer to articles 11 and 13 of the Immigration Laws and Regulations of the Treasury Department (last issue, April 9, 1900), and to the Quarantine Laws and Regulations, Treasury Department of the United States (rev. ed., November 13, 1899).

"Every vessel clearing from this port (and the same requirement holds good as to every foreign port) is required to obtain from the consul a bill of health. Practically speaking, the only way in which the consul can exercise direct authority under United States law "to refuse permission to any emigrant to sail to the United States" is by declining to give the bill of health to the ship. Section 2 of the quarantine act of February 15, 1893, requires the consul before granting the bill of health "to be satisfied that the matter and things stated therein are true." If I were not satisfied that such "matters and things" were

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true, I would certainly decline to grant the bill of health, and would also, probably, cable the Department of State to that effect. The quarantine laws and regulations of November 13, 1899, give the forms of bills of health (pp. 12 and 13).

"A bill of health sets forth the sanitary history and condition of the vessel, and certifies all the requirements of the United States as to the sanitary condition of the vessel, its cargo, passengers, and crew, have been complied with. Before I sign and grant the bill of health I require the master and surgeon to sign and verify the manifest sheets of immigrants, pursuant to article 13 of the immigration regulations (pp. 5 and 6). The signings and verifications on the manifest sheets by the master and surgeon of the ship, and by myself as consul, take place on board ship immediately preceding the sailing, but I require the emigrants' manifest sheets to have been previously presented at the consulate for inspection and sealing; and if I find that any third-class emigrant comes from an infected district, I require his clothing, baggage, and personal effects to be disinfected, pursuant to article 11 of the immigration laws and regulations. In accepting the declaration and verification of the master and surgeon of the ship, I take cognizance of the known fact of inspection by the British board of trade officers, and of fulfillment of sanitary regulations both local, and as laid down by the American Government, on the part of the ship's management. Occasionally the United States Government details one or more medical officers to this port to act in this matter, and then we jointly sign the bills of health, in that case the practice being for the consul to accept the decision of the United States medical officer so far as sanitary matters are concerned. My experience is that ships' owners accept the suggestions of the medical officer and the consul, and the occasion to object to passengers after they have been inspected by the British officials arises very seldom. I have never felt called upon to refuse to grant the bill of health, but yet the steamship companies understand that if I was not satisfied with the declarations of the master and surgeon as to the good sanitary condition of the passengers and crew and of the cargo, I would withhold the document.

"For some time Dr. Anderson and another officer of the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service were on detail here to make observation and inspection of sanitary matters connected with emigration from this port to the United States, with special reference to the plague then existing at certain places on the continent and at Glasgow. After the disappearance of the plague these officers were taken off the detail. Subsequently, however, Dr. Anderson was instructed to inspect the emigrants leaving this port for Canadian ports. As is well known, a large number of emigrants embarking at this port enter the United States via Canada. As I understand it, the alternative presented itself of a rigorous and troublesome inspection, involving quarantine stations at the American frontier, by officials of the United States Government, or of inspection at Liverpool, the port of embarkation. The latter system, established on February 5, resulted from an agreement or understanding between the Allan, Dominion, and Beaver Lines, and the United States Immigration Bureau. But in so acting Dr. Anderson acts purely in an advisory capacity. As a matter of fact, he is not now officially attached to this consulate, he only making the consulate his headquarters as a matter of convenience. He does not claim any legal jurisdiction so far as forbidding any person whatever from embarking on the ships in question, nor does he sign the bills of health of these ships. But he inspects, so far as possible, the emigrants, and that irrespective of

whether they are booked only to Canada or through to the United States. If he finds any passenger suffering from a disease which would disqualify him from entering the United States, he so informs the representative of the ship's owners. The understanding is that under these circumstances the passenger will not be allowed to sail if the presumption prevails that his intention is to enter the United States. The rule is for Dr. Anderson to make his examination before the examination by the British board of trade medical officer has been made, and before embarkation, and my information is that on one occasion Dr. Anderson advised the rejection of several passengers who had been passed by the British board of trade official, and the explanation is that there are some diseases which disqualify an alien immigrant from entering the United States, but which do not debar him from embarking from a British port on a British ship.

"In conclusion, I would say that while Dr. Anderson and I are satisfied, generally, with the manner in which the requirements of the United States Government are met at this port, yet that we are strongly of the opinion that improvement should be made in the matter of lodging the emigrants who stay here temporarily, awaiting embarkation, and I am just now exchanging communications with the medical health officer of Liverpool in regard to this matter.

"Respectfully,

"JAMES BOYLE,  
United States Consul.

"Hon. W. M. OSBORNE,  
Consul-General of the United States, London."

#### GERMANY.

*Report from Berlin—Plague in various countries.*

BERLIN, GERMANY, July 1, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following information obtained from the imperial health office at Berlin:

#### Plague.

EGYPT.—During the period from June 2 to June 6, inclusive, there were in Zagazig altogether 7 plague cases, of which 1 ended in death, and on June 7, 6 were still under treatment.

According to the "bulletin quarantenaire hebdomadaire," there occurred at the same place during the first twelve days of the month of June, 23 fresh cases and 7 deaths of plague. On June 12 there were 16 plague patients (among them 3 Europeans) under treatment. In Minieh there were on the same date 2 plague patients under treatment, and in Mansurah, a plague patient arriving from Zagazig, died on June 8. The total number of plague cases in Egypt during the period from April 27 to June 12, were as follows: Alexandria, 4 cases, 4 deaths; Zagazig, 23 cases, 7 deaths; Minieh, 2 cases, no deaths; Mansurah, 1 case, 1 death. There was no further plague case in Alexandria since the 18th of May.

BRITISH INDIA.—According to a communication of May 30, the violence of the plague in Karachi had considerably decreased. At that date only 8 to 12 deaths from plague were being registered daily.

CHINA.—According to a communication of May 13, the plague has again broken out with violence in Swatow and the neighboring villages.

MAURITIUS.—During the 3 weeks from April 19 to May 9, 3 fresh cases of plague occurred on the island, 2 of them ending fatally.